

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

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Montana Dept. Natural Resources and Conservation
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June 30, 2016

Drought forums scheduled for Aug., Sept

HELENA, Mont. – Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney today announced a series of drought forums to be held in several communities across Montana. The forums will allow Montana citizens to weigh in on the 2016 update of the Montana Drought Response Plan.

Meetings are scheduled in Havre, Billings, Bozeman and Missoula at the following times and locations:

August 16, 1- 2:30pm	Havre City Hall	520 4 th St.
September 7, 3-4:30pm	Billings Public Library	510 N. Broadway
September 8, 11am – 12:30pm	Bozeman Public Library	626 E. Main St.
September 13, 2-3:30pm	Missoula Public Library	301 E. Main St.

In light of current dry conditions, Lt. Governor Cooney, who chairs the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, wants input from local communities on steps the state can take to help them prepare for and respond to drought. Cooney and the Committee are in the process of updating the State's current Drought Response Plan.

Drought in Montana is cyclical and impacts can be reduced by early warning and coordinated response. Communities with clear, locally-driven response plans for times of low stream flow and soil moisture conditions have shown an ability to adapt have shown an ability to adapt to drought impacts and economic hardship.

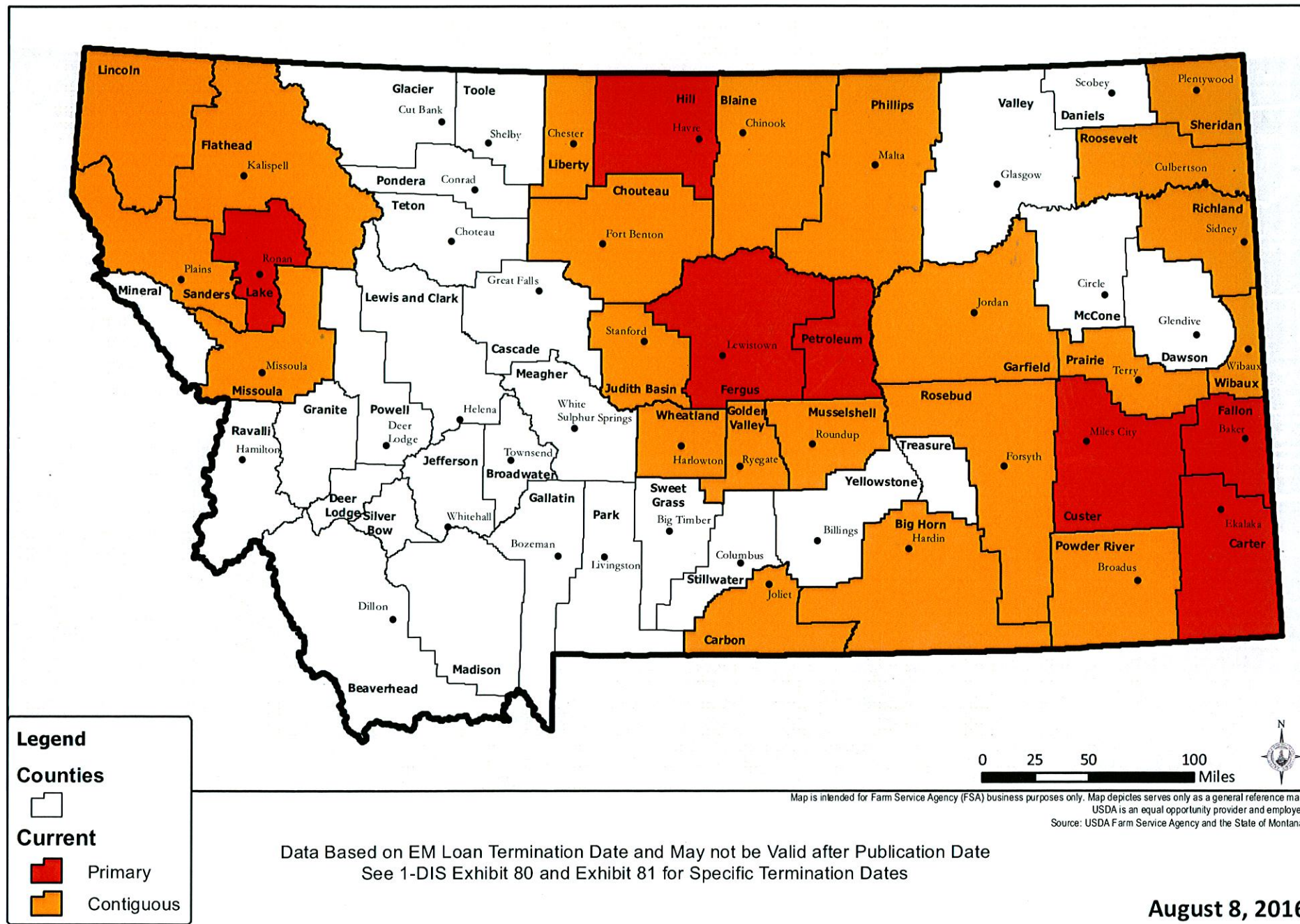
For more information on the current Montana Drought Management Plan, visit drought.mt.gov.

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USDA Farm Service Agency Montana

Counties Eligible for Disaster Assistance as of 8/8/2016





USDA Farm Service Agency - Montana Office Directory

Montana FSA State Office | P.O. Box 670 | Bozeman, MT 59771 | State Executive Director Bruce Nelson
Phone: 406.587.6872 Fax: 855.546.0264 Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

FSA Service Center Offices <i>(Listed by County/Reservation)</i>		Phone #	Fax #
Beaverhead	420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725	406/683-3830	855/556-1258
Big Horn, Crow Reservation, Northern Cheyenne Reservation	724 West Third, Hardin, MT 59034	406/665-3442	855/556-1457
Blaine, Fort Belknap Reservation	PO Box 307, 228 Ohio, Chinook, MT 59523	406/357-2320	855/546-0388
Broadwater	415 South Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644	406/266-4253	855/575-2506
Carbon	PO Box 509, 606 W Front Street, Joliet, MT 59041-0136	406/962-3300	855/558-5641
Carter	PO Box 5, 308 S. Mormon Ave., Ekalaka, MT 59324	406/775-6355	855/556-1271
Cascade	#12 Third St NW, Suite 300, Great Falls, MT 59404	406/727-7580	866/609-8434
Chouteau	PO Box 309, 1210 25th Street, Fort Benton, MT 59442-0309	406/622-5401	855/556-1450
Custer	3120 Valley Drive East, Miles City, MT 59301-5599	406/232-7905	855/558-5665
Daniels	131 B Highway 5 East, Scobey, MT 59263	406/487-5366	855/575-2501
Dawson	102 Fir Street, Glendive, MT 59330-3196	406/377-5566	855/556-1455
Deer Lodge	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855-547-5750
Fallon	PO Box 1516, 141 South 4th Street West, Baker, MT 59313-1516	406/778-2238	855-510-7029
Fergus	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489	855/558-5654
Flathead	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242	855/558-5653
Gallatin	3710 W. Fallon St. Ste. D, Bozeman, MT 59718-6433	406/522-4000	855/546-0262
Garfield	PO Box 329, 307 Main St., Jordan, MT 59337	406/557-2740	855/558-5652
Glacier, Blackfeet Reservation	1 3rd St. NE, Cut Bank, MT 59427	406/873-5618	855/547-5749
Golden Valley	PO Box 5, 206 First Street North, Ryegate, MT 59074	406/568-2221	855/575-2500
Granite	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855-547-5750
Hill, Rocky Boy's Reservation	Hill Co. FSA Office, 206 25 th Ave W. Suite #2, Havre MT 59501	406/265-6792	855/556-1459
Jefferson	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Judith Basin	121 Central Avenue, Stanford, MT 59479	406/566-2218	855/575-2504
Lake, Flathead Reservation	64352 US Highway 93, Ronan, MT 59864-8738	406/676-2811	855/575-2498
Lewis and Clark	790 Colleen Street, Helena, MT 59601	406/449-5277	855/558-5608
Liberty	PO Box 669, 18 Main Street, Chester, MT 59522-0669	406/759-5129	855/546-0386

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Montana FSA Office Directory page 2 of 2 *revised June 2016

County/ Reservation:	FSA Office Address:	Phone #	Fax #
Lincoln	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242	855/558-5653
McCone	PO Box 187, 104 10th Street, Circle, MT 59215-0187	406/485-2744	855/546-0416
Madison	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Meagher	PO Box J, 4147 Highway 89, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645	406/547-3521	855/576-2402
Mineral	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395	855/558-5666
Missoula	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395	855/558-5666
Musselshell	109 Railroad Ave. East, Roundup, MT 59072	406/323-2067	855/575-2499
Park	5242 Hwy. 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047-9611	406/222-0212	855/558-5656
Petroleum	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489	855/558-5654
Phillips, Fort Belknap Reservation	1120 US Hwy 191 S, Suite 2, Malta, MT 59538	406/654-1333	855/558-5661
Pondera	406 North Main, Conrad, MT 59425-2706	406/278-7611	855/547-5499
Powder River	PO Box 9, 114 N. Lincoln Ave., Broadus, MT 59317	406/436-2321	855/546-0273
Powell	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855/547-5750
Prairie	PO Box 626, 409 East Spring, Terry, MT 59349	406/635-5381	855/575-2505
Ravalli	1709 North First Street, Hamilton, MT 59840-3357	406/363-1444	855/556-1456
Richland	2745 West Holly Street, Sidney, MT 59270	406/433-2103	855/575-2503
Roosevelt, Fort Peck Reservation	PO Box 519, 508 6th St. E, Culbertson, MT 59218-0519	406/787-6262	855/547-5748
Rosebud, Northern Cheyenne Res.	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333	855/556-1448
Sanders	PO Box 639, 7487 MT Highway 200, Plains, MT 59859	406/826-3751	855/558-5669
Sheridan	119 North Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254	406/765-1550	855/575-2496
Silver Bow	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Stillwater	334 North 9th Street, Columbus, MT 59019	406/322-5348	855/546-0421
Sweet Grass	PO Box 610, 225 Big Timber Loop Rd., Big Timber, MT 59011	406/932-5159	855/546-0258
Teton	1102 Main Ave. North, Suite 2, Choteau, MT 59422-0836	406/466-5351	855/546-0390
Toole	1125 Oilfield Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474	406/434-5234	855/575-2502
Treasure Valley, Fort Peck Reservation	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333	855/556-1448
	54059 US Highway 2, Suite 1, Glasgow, MT 59230-2846	406/228-4321	855/556-1454
Wheatland	PO Box 669, 809 Second Ave., NW, Harlowton, MT 59036-0669	406/632-5622	855/556-1458
Wibaux	502 2nd Ave., NW Wibaux, MT 59353-9040	406/796-2221	855/576-2670
Yellowstone	1629 Ave. D, Bldg. A, Suite 2, Billings, MT 59102-3042	406/657-6135	855/546-0259

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FACT SHEET

September 2015

Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance

Disaster programs	Blizzard	Fire	Hurricane/ Typhoon	Excessive Moisture/ Flood	Excessive Winds/ Tornado	Drought	Hail	Volcanic Eruption/ Emissions	Freeze	Earthquake
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - provides funding to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) - provides payments to eligible owners of rural nonindustrial private forest land to carry out emergency measures to restore forest health on land damaged by natural disaster events such as floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) - provides payments to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to help compensate for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires.	Yes	Yes, except on federally managed land	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, except for water transportation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Emergency Loan Program (EM) - provides EM loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Livestock Forage Disaster - Program (LFP) - provides compensation for grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition or fire on Federally managed land during the normal grazing period for the county.	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, except when associated with anthrax	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - provides financial assistance for noninsurable crop losses due to drought, flood, hurricane, or other natural disasters.	Yes	Yes, Only as a related condition to an eligible disaster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or, where applicable, rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines lost by natural disasters.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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FSA Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance

September 2015

Other natural disasters that may apply to some of these programs include:

- Explosion
- High water
- Landslide
- Mudslide
- Severe snowstorm
- Storm, including ice storms
- Tidal wave
- Wind-driven water
- Insect infestation
- Plant disease
- Lightning
- Other **natural** phenomena

Some man-made conditions qualify for disaster assistance, as follows:

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Disaster programs	Pesticide Contamination	Nuclear Radiation/Fallout	Toxic Substances Other Than Pesticides	Chemical Residue Other Than Pesticides
Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) - Pays dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the FSA disaster programs, visit your local FSA county office or Service Center, or visit online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process

OVERVIEW

Agriculture-related disasters and disaster designations are quite common. Many counties in the United States have been designated as disaster areas in the past several years, even in years of record crop production.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate counties as disaster areas to make emergency loans (EM) available to producers suffering losses in those counties and in counties that are contiguous to a designated county. In addition to EM eligibility, other emergency assistance programs, such as FSA disaster assistance programs, have historically used disaster designations as an eligibility trigger.

TYPES OF DISASTER DESIGNATIONS

FSA administers four types of disaster designations:

- USDA Secretarial disaster designation;
- Presidential major disaster and Presidential emergency declarations;
- FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification; and
- Quarantine designation by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.

USDA Secretarial disaster designations must be requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by a governor or the governor's authorized representative, by an Indian Tribal Council leader, or by an FSA State Executive Director (SED). The Secretarial disaster designation is the most widely used and its process is the most complicated of the four. An expedited process for drought was introduced in 2012. The general process and the expedited process are described in further detail under "Secretarial Disaster Designation Process."

Presidential major disaster declarations, which must be requested of the President by a governor, are administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A Presidential major disaster declaration can be made within days or hours of the initial request. FEMA immediately notifies FSA of the primary counties named in a Presidential declaration.

An FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification (APLN) is for physical losses only, such as a building destroyed by a tornado. Livestock-related losses are considered physical losses. An APLN is requested of FSA's Administrator by an FSA SED.

A quarantine designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by an FSA SED. A quarantine designation authorizes EM loans for production and physical losses resulting from quarantine.

WHAT DOES A DISASTER DESIGNATION SPECIFY?

A disaster designation specifies:

- The disaster that resulted in the designation;
- The incident period (dates) of that disaster;
- The specific counties included in the designation.

THE SECRETARIAL DISASTER DESIGNATION PROCESS

In 2012, USDA streamlined the Secretarial disaster declaration process to reduce paperwork and documentation requirements at the local FSA level, making the process more efficient and timely for agricultural producers. The program improvements included Fast Track Secretarial disaster designations for severe drought, which provide for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher

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Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

June 2015

drought intensity value for any length of time as reported in the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

For all other natural disaster occurrences, including drought conditions that do not trigger a Fast Track designation, the county must have a 30 percent production loss of at least one crop or a determination must be made by surveying producers that other lending institutions will not be able to provide emergency financing. The process for those Secretarial disaster designations is described below.

PROCESS

STEP 1

The governor, Indian Tribal Council leader, or FSA SED makes a request in writing to the Secretary of Agriculture within three months of the ending date of the disaster

STEP 2

FSA county offices assemble required agricultural loss information for the Loss Assessment Report (LAR).

STEP 3

The County Emergency Board (CEB) reviews the LAR and makes a recommendation to approve, defer, or reject the request.

STEP 4

The State Emergency Board (SEB) reviews the request and the CEB's recommendation. The SEB's recommendation is submitted to FSA's National Headquarters (NHQ).

STEP 5

FSA NHQ reviews the loss information on the LAR, determines eligibility, and prepares a package, including the letter of approval or disapproval, to be signed by the Secretary.

ELIGIBLE NATURAL DISASTERS

Eligible natural disasters are disasters in which damaging weather conditions or other adverse natural occurrence phenomena have substantially affected farmers causing severe production losses. Eligible natural disaster conditions include drought, flooding, excessive rain and humidity, severe storms, lightning, hail, mudslides and landslides, snow, ice, blizzards, frost, freeze, below-normal temperatures, wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons, tropical storms, fire, excessive heat, volcanoes, pests and disease.

FSA PROGRAMS INITIATED BY DESIGNATIONS AND/OR DECLARATIONS

All four types of designation, (Secretarial disaster designations, Presidential disaster declarations, APLNs, and quarantine designations) immediately trigger the availability of low-interest FSA EM loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. More information about EM loans is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index>.

FSA borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous counties, who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, may be authorized to have certain set asides. Under Section 331A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, FSA is authorized to consider setting aside certain payments owed by FSA borrowers to allow the operation to continue.

Additional disaster assistance requiring a designation may also be provided by new programs in the future.

REGULATION GOVERNING DISASTER DESIGNATION PROCESS

The regulation governing disaster designations is at 7 CFR Part 759. The rule was published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2012, at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/html/2012-17137.htm>.

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Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

June 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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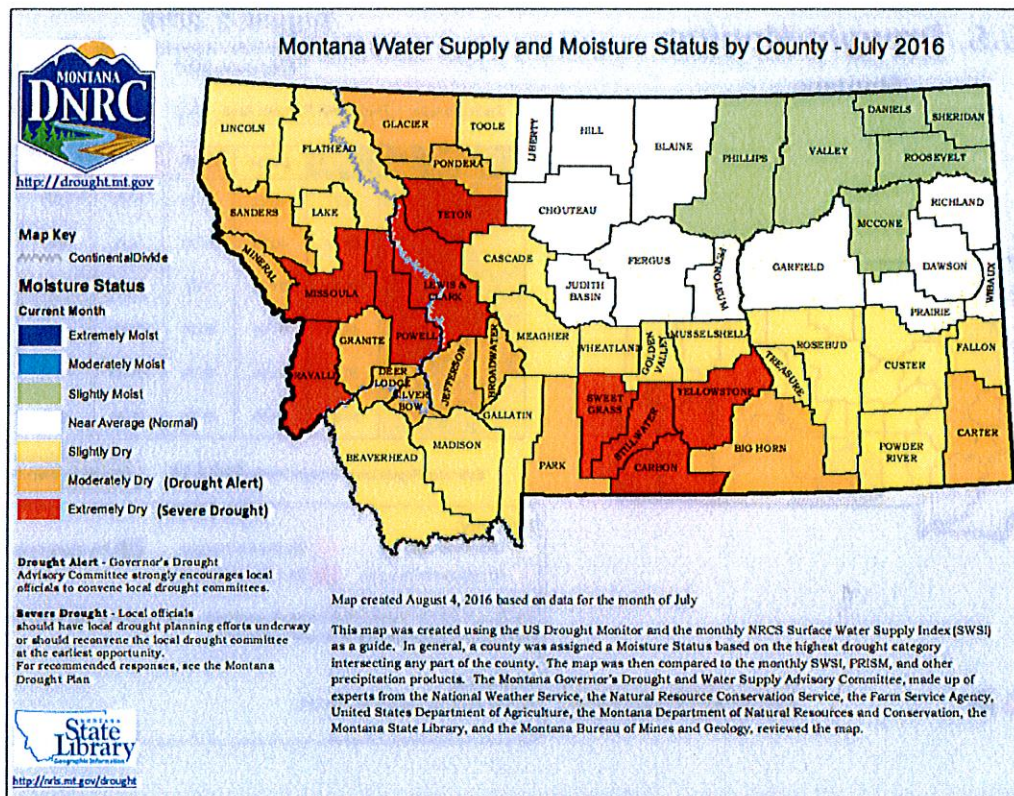
Montana Water Supply Monthly Report: August 2016



Overview:

The state as a whole continues to see surface water declines along the Rocky Mountain Front, all along the southern portion of the state, and moving into some areas west of the Continental Divide. In contrast, the Northeast is very wet for this time of year. Despite some significant rainfall in the beginning of July, dry conditions persist in certain areas. Below is a map summarizing conditions as they were at the end of July 2016.

A Drought Alert was issued in June by the Lt. Governor, as chair of the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee (DWSAC) for Glacier, Teton, Pondera, and Lewis and Clark counties. In July a Drought Alert was set for Carter, Carbon, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Powell, Ravalli, Missoula and Sanders counties. Counties under a drought alert are encouraged to coordinate with local emergency services and Farm Service Agency (FSA) representatives. Citizens are encouraged to conserve water.



[https://mslservices.mt.gov/Geographic Information/Maps/Drought/](https://mslservices.mt.gov/Geographic%20Information/Maps/Drought/)

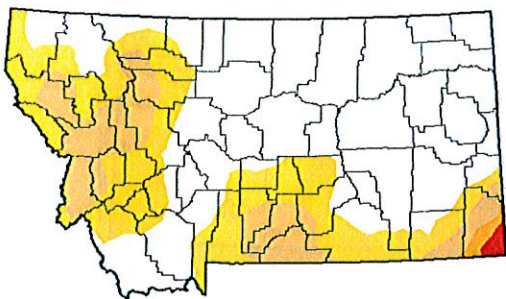
Montana Water Supply Monthly Report: August 2016

Drought Conditions:

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Montana continues to face pockets of dry conditions. When any portion of a county meets the D2 drought intensity rating (dark orange) for 8 consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity rating, the USDA can automatically trigger a "Fast Track Secretarial" disaster designation making funding and loan assistance programs available. Carter and Fallon Counties were designated as federal natural disaster areas due to drought in July.

- The **Yellowstone** basin is especially dry in the southwest corner of the state, with Fallon and Carter counties under a natural disaster declaration. Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, and Powder River counties are all listed as either in Moderate or Severe Drought.
- The **Lower Missouri** continues to avoid drought conditions, though Wheatland, Golden Valley and Musselshell counties, are abnormally dry.
- The **Upper Missouri** basin continues to experience moderate drought along the Rocky Mountain Front. The Big Hole, Ruby and Beaverhead Rivers remain a concern and the Jefferson River Watershed Council recently called a meeting in response to low flows (see news story [here](#)).
- The **Clark Fork and Kootenai** basins received some summer rains which alleviated drought concerns, but areas of dry conditions persist in the Bitterroot, Blackfoot, and Upper Clark Fork rivers and were moved into a moderate drought intensity listing.

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana



Download:

[View drought planning resources](#)

August 2, 2016

(Released Thursday August 4, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Statistics type: Traditional Percent Area Export table:

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current 2016-08-02	59.77	40.23	14.73	1.13	0.47	0.00
Last Week 2016-07-26	59.77	40.23	14.73	1.13	0.47	0.00
3 Months Ago 2016-05-03	78.12	21.88	7.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 2015-12-29	48.55	51.45	30.93	20.95	3.54	0.00
Start of Water Year 2015-09-29	30.55	69.45	38.18	28.78	16.92	0.00
One Year Ago 2015-08-04	36.94	63.06	35.70	23.50	13.95	0.00

Estimated Population in Drought Areas: 242,518

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:

D0 (Abnormally Dry) D2 (Severe Drought) D4 (Exceptional Drought)
 D1 (Moderate Drought) D3 (Extreme Drought)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Author(s):

Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

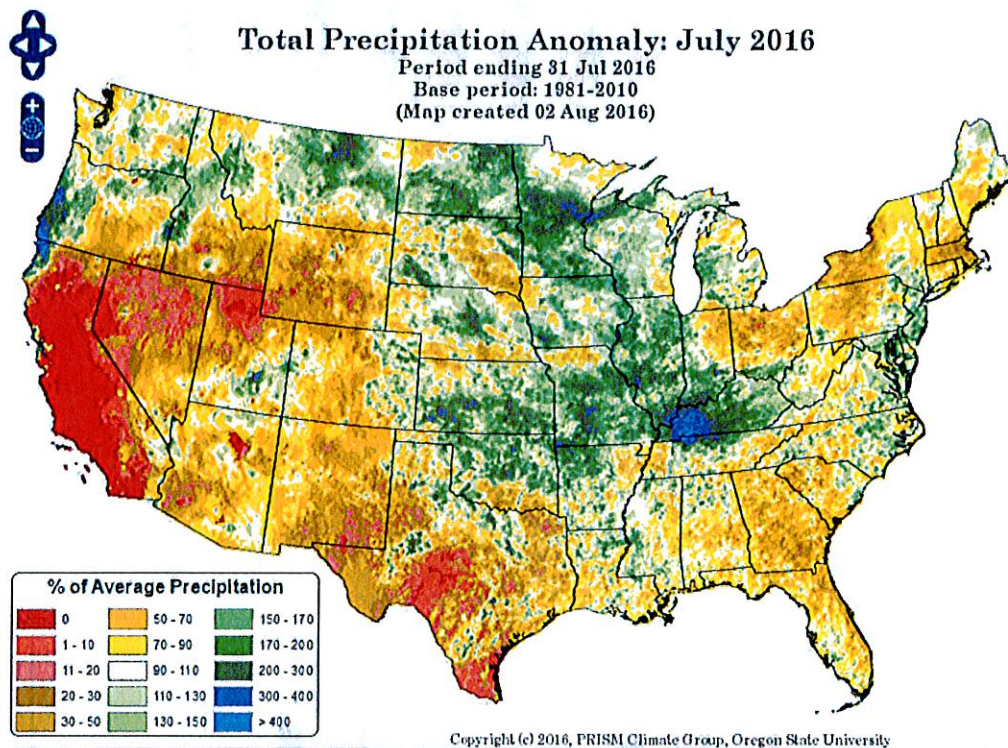
Montana Water Supply Monthly Report: August 2016

Flooding Conditions:

There are no flooding conditions in the state at this time.

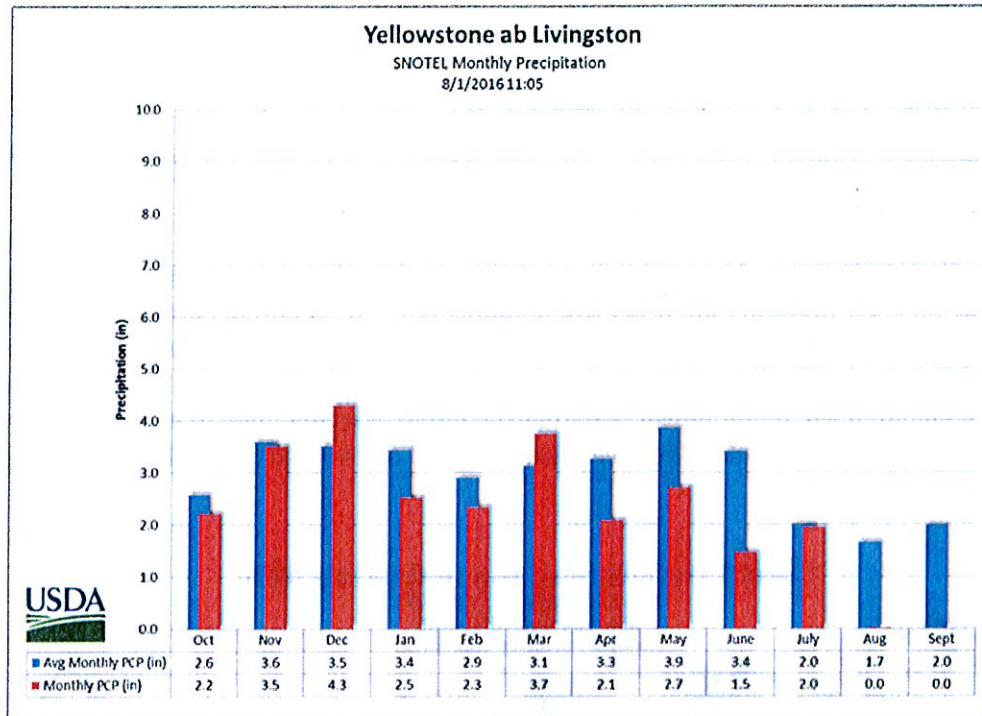
Precipitation:

The three-month precipitation totals reflect generally dry conditions since May 1st, with the exception of central and Northeast Montana. May and June are typically when the state receives the majority of its volumetric water and are therefore are most critical, particularly for areas east of the Divide. The below average precipitation has had a major impact on streamflows, irrigation demand on water, and soil moisture. Precipitation during the month of July came all during one event during the second week of the month, and did not make up for deficits experienced during May and June. It is also important to note that comparing July precipitation % of average (~0.5 to 2" on average depending on region) to May and June can be misleading.

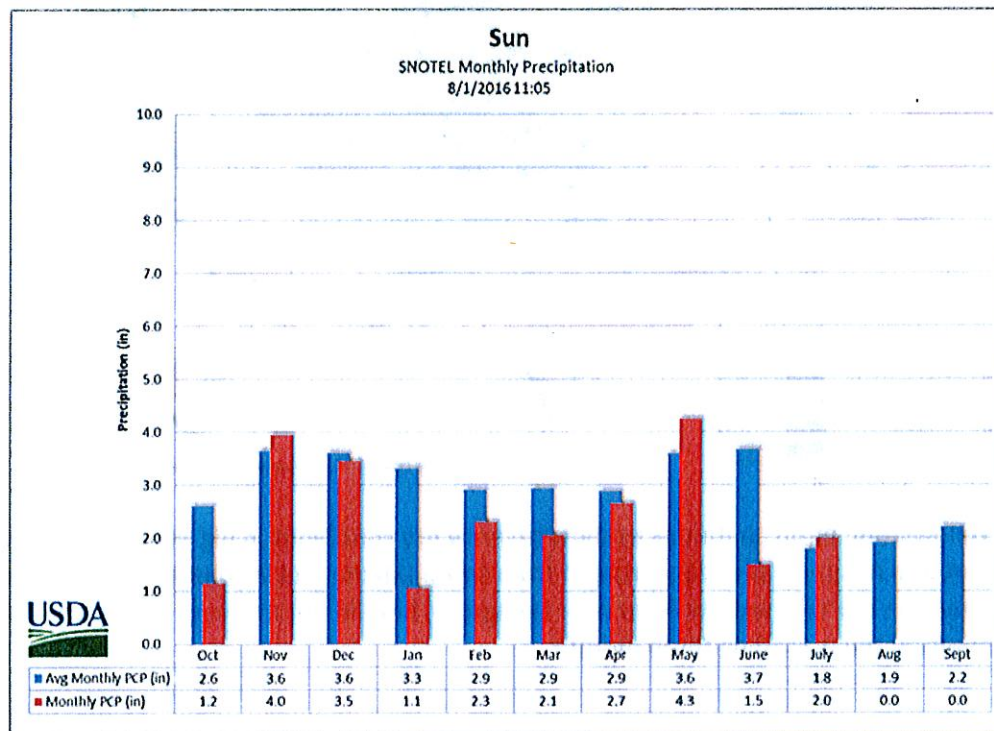


- The **Yellowstone** basin continues to show severely dry conditions in Big Horn, Custer and Fallon counties as a result of spreading drought from South Dakota and Wyoming. July rains improved conditions on the Yellowstone River near Livingston, but did not make up for the low flow conditions of the preceding three months.

Montana Water Supply Monthly Report: August 2016

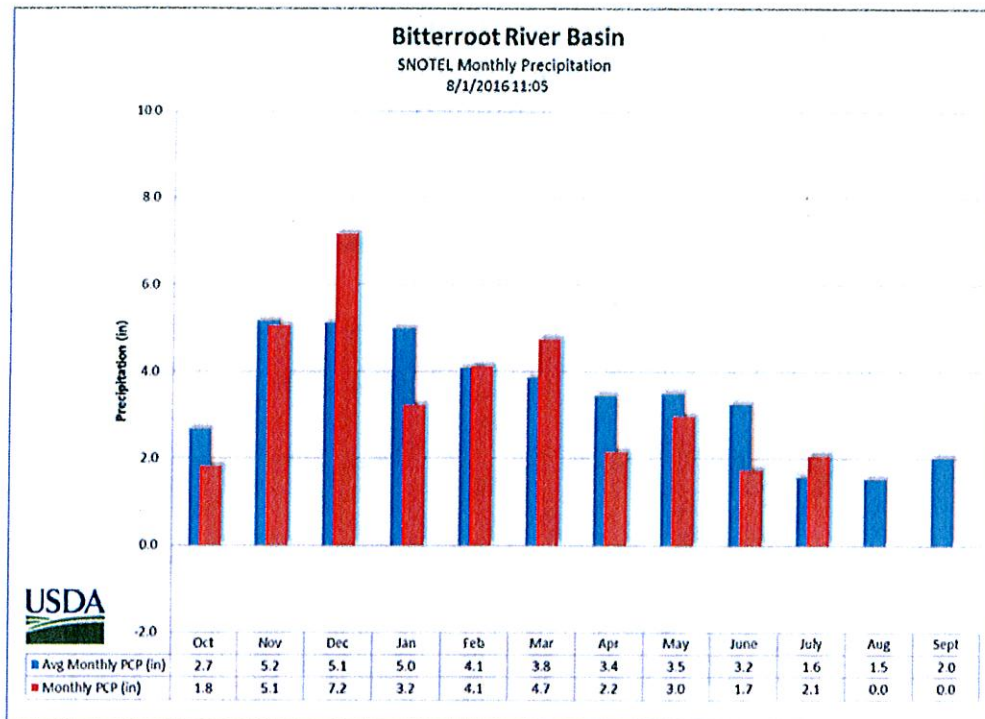


- The **Upper Missouri** is increasingly dry, particularly along the Rocky Mountain Front and the in the southwest portions of the basin. The Sun River has been particularly dry this year.



- The **Lower Missouri** shows fairly wet conditions.
- The **Clark Fork and Kootenai** basins are showing dry conditions in the Northwest. The Bitterroot benefitted from July precipitation, but as the chart below shows, did not make up for the deficit left from low precipitation in April, May and June.

Montana Water Supply Monthly Report: August 2016



Real-Time Streamflow:

Flows are well below average on non-reservoir fed systems due to the early snowmelt, lack of June precipitation and irrigation use. Several rivers and streams are near record low for this date in southern Montana and in the Rocky Mountain Front. Several water commissioners have had to cut off junior water right holders across the state due to low flows in the rivers. Naturally flowing streams (no reservoirs or storage) are all well below average at this time. Many rivers across the state are currently under "hoot owl" fishing restrictions due to above average water temperatures due to the low flows.

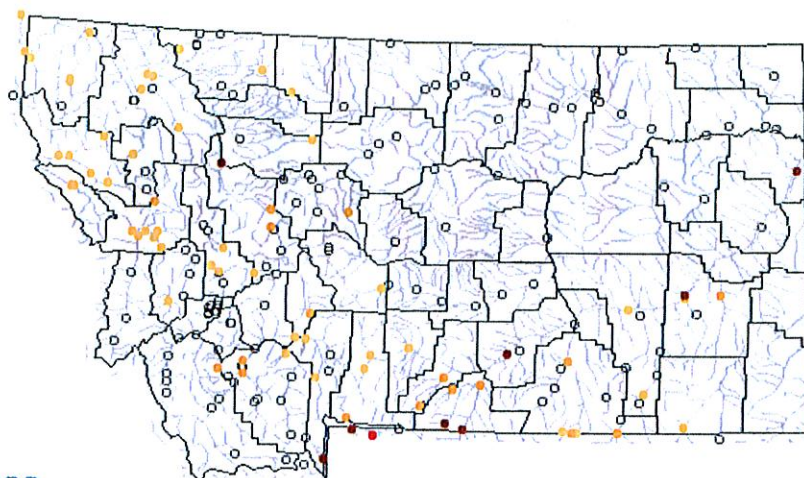
- The **Yellowstone** is running at flows much below normal for the full extent of its reach, especially at the Gardiner near Mammoth, Rock Creek near Red Lodge and the Clarks Fork near Belfry.
- The **Lower Missouri** continues to experience above normal flows for this time of year, with a few exceptions. The South Fork of the Musselshell River above Martinsdale, is currently at 41% of normal.
- The **Upper Missouri** has very mixed conditions, with the majority of the area experiencing below normal flows, with the majority showing less than half of normal for the last two-week period.
- The **Clark Fork and Kootenai** basins are also characterized by mixed conditions. The Jocko River near Arlee is currently showing the most pronounced reduced flows for the area in the last two weeks.

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Map of below normal 14-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of year (Montana)

Montana ▼ or Water-Resources Regions ▼

Sunday, August 07, 2016



Choose a data retrieval option and select a location on the map

☐ List of all stations ☒ Single station ☐ Nearest stations

Explanation - Percentile classes				
New low	<=5	6-9	10-24	Not ranked
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?m=pa14d_dry&r=mt&w=map

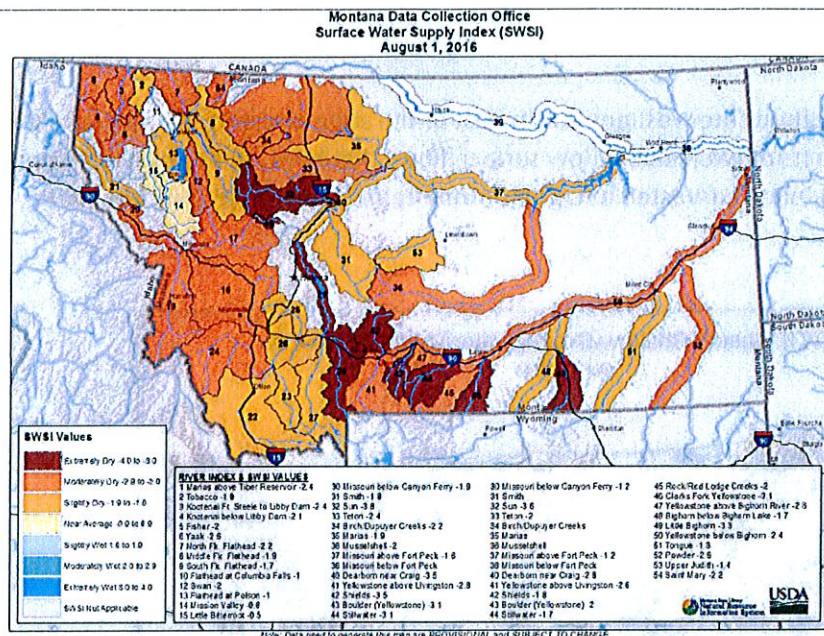
Reservoirs:

Reservoir storage continues to be near to slightly below average in some reservoirs across the state, but irrigation demand over the last two months has left some reservoirs well below average on August 1st. Gibson Reservoir in the Sun River basin is currently 12% of average for this date and is only 6% of capacity. Southwest Montana reservoirs are well below average for this date as well.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI):

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) recently produced the SWSI for August 1st which considers Reservoir storage and Streamflows to generate an index of available water supply by stream (ranked against historical record). The map reflects the dry conditions of the state, with all locations below the 50th percentile, and many in the lower 20th percentile for this date.

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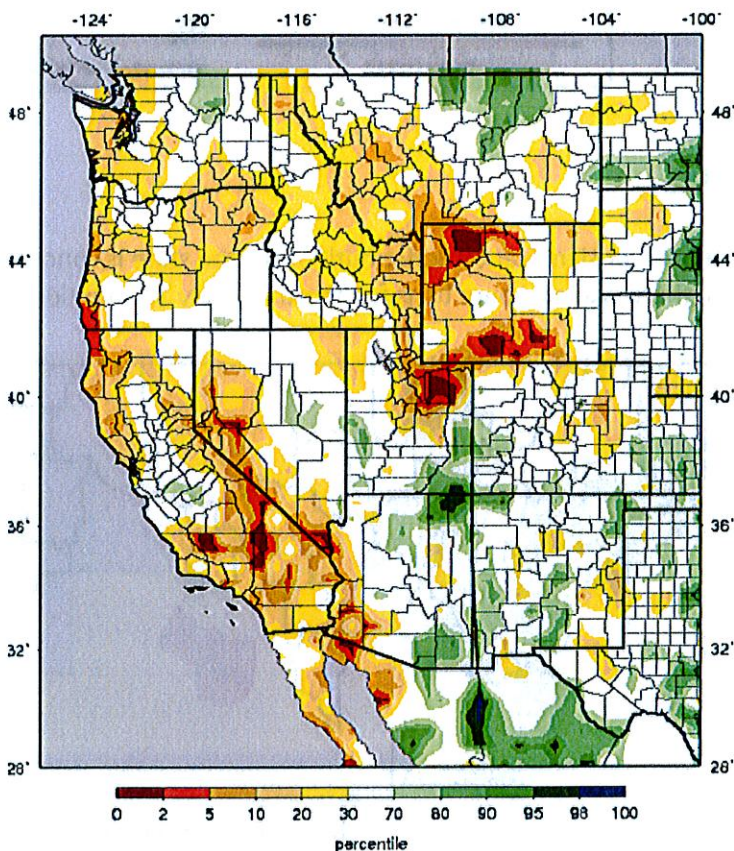


<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/waterproducts/surface/#>

Soil Moisture:

Soil moisture conditions continue to suffer in the south and along the Rocky Mountain Front. Below is a map generally summarizing soil moisture conditions across the West. Montana is particularly dry at the southern portion of the Rocky Mountain Front and in the Southcentral part of the state. The northcentral and northeast continue to experience soil moisture in the 80-90th percentile. (Map source: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.gif)

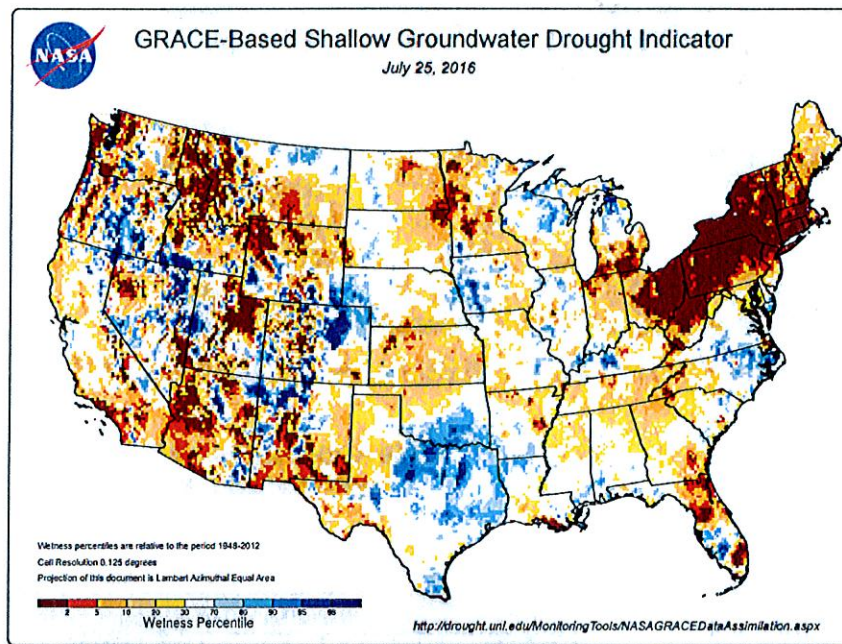
VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt 1918-2004)
Western United States - 20160816



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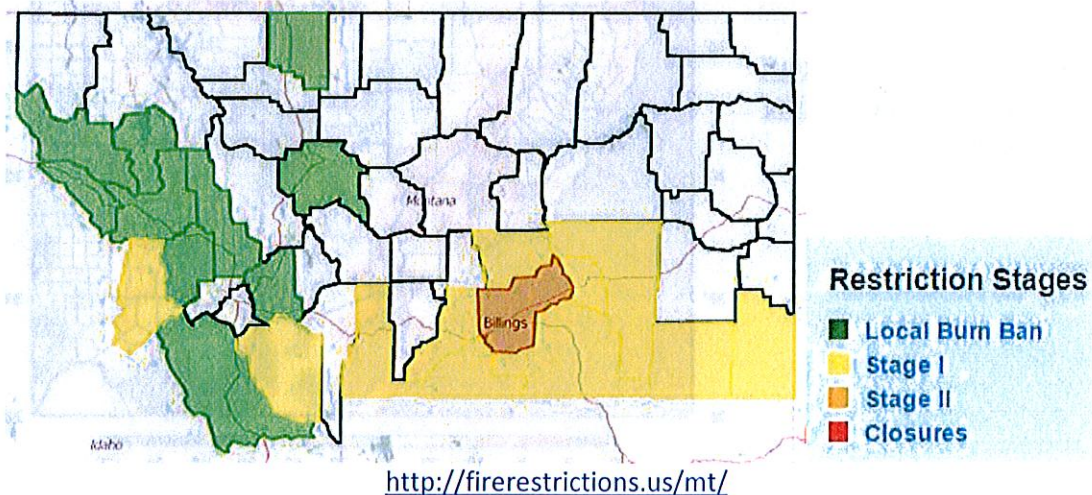
Groundwater:

Groundwater conditions throughout the west and southwest of the state are showing signs of significant decline. This reflects the impacts of two years of low surface flows that have (a) not provided typical groundwater recharge, and (b) been harvested at a greater rate to make up for low surface water availability.



Wildfire:

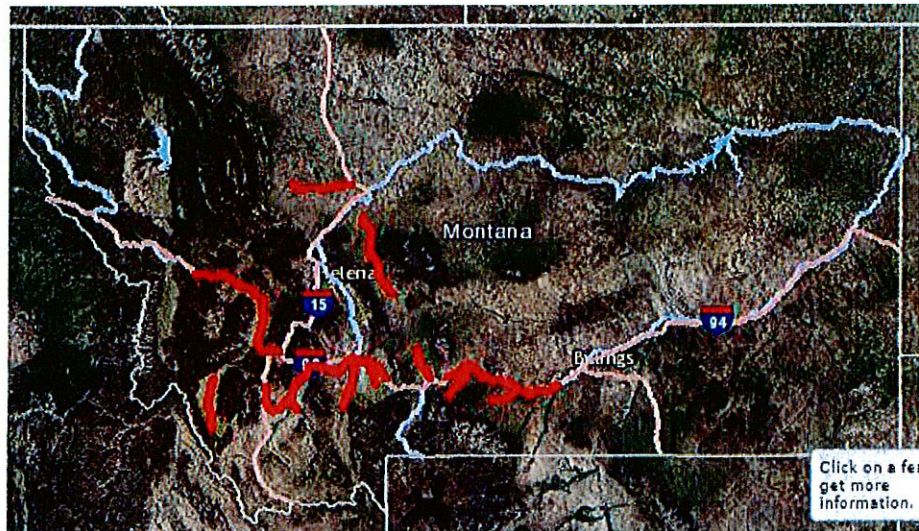
The potential for significant wildfire outlook for the state is concentrated in the Southcentral. In addition, there is a local burn bans for approximately 12 counties in the western portion of the state.



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Fisheries:

Fishing restrictions and closures are in effect on the Big Hole, Boulder, Clark Fork, East Gallatin, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Mill Willow Bypass, Ruby, Shields, Silver Bow Creek, Smith, Stillwater, Sun, and Yellowstone. Some restrictions have also been lifted. View more information and Water Body Reports here: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/waterClosure.html>



Resources:

- DNRC/Water Court Enforcement Projects:
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/adjudication/water-distribution>
- National Drought Resiliency Project:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/newsroom/releases/?cid=STELPRDB1257622>
- Current Conditions Maps (hourly/daily):
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/snow/products/?cid=nrcseprd1137464>
- USDA Drought Programs and Assistance:
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=usda_drought_programs.html
- Montana Drought Website: www.drought.mt.gov